



# Annual Report

On the Health of the  
Borough of Newport,  
Isle of Wight,  
for the year 1964

Lib. 117

BY

JOHN MILLS, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. (Eng.)  
L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H.

*Medical Officer of Health.*

PRESENTED TO THE CORPORATION  
THROUGH THEIR COMMITTEE.

Newport, I.W.:

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COUNTY HALL

NEWPORT, I.W.

Tel. Newport 2261

*To His Worship the Mayor, and to the Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Newport, Isle of Wight*

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1964.

The Birth Rate fell slightly from 14.9 to 13.8.

The Death Rate again fell, from 17.2 to 16.8.

The Infantile Mortality Rate rose again slightly from 24.8 to 26.5.

The number of deaths from all forms of cancer rose from 40 to 51. Eleven of these deaths were attributed to lung cancer.

Deaths from coronary artery disease again rose slightly from 47 to 50.

No deaths occurred from any of the statutory notifiable diseases but two persons suffering from tuberculosis died from other causes.

One case of food poisoning was notified but this proved to be of a mild nature.

### **Water Supplies**

The water supplies have been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

The results of bacteriological examination were:—

<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Suspicious</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
163	2	Nil

The suspicious reports were due to sampling errors. In both cases samples taken a few days later were satisfactory.

The water is hard and is not liable to plumbo solvency.

No contamination occurred. None of the houses are supplied by stand pipes.

### **Removal of Persons in need of Care and Attention**

It was again not necessary to invoke the powers contained in Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, during the year.

### **Acknowledgment**

It is a pleasure to again acknowledge my indebtedness to the loyal co-operation of all members of my staff. In addition, the understanding and support of the Mayor and members of the Public Health and Housing Committees has, as always, been an unfailing source of encouragement.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN MILLS,

*Medical Officer of Health*

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1964

### *Medical Officer of Health—*

JOHN MILLS, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. (ENG.), L.R.C.P. (LOND.),  
D.P.H.

### *Senior Public Health Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector*

F. K. AZE

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board as Public Health Inspector

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and other Foods

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Smoke Inspector

### *Public Health Inspector*

H. S. BULL

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board as Public Health Inspector

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and other Foods

### *Clerical Assistant*

D. BIRBECK (appointed August 1964)

## GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	15,530
Population (Registrar General's Figures)	...				...	19,110
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1964) per						
rate books	...	...	...	...		5,496
Rateable Value (as at 1.4.64)	...	...	...	...		£690,779
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (1963-64)	...					£2,843

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Birth rate per 1000 of the						
resident population	...	...	...			13.8
Comparative factor	...	...	...	...		1.2
Comparative Birth Rate	...	...	...			16.6



Still Birth rate per 1000 total (live and still births) ... ..	11·2
Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population ... ..	16·8
Comparative factor ... ..	0·62
Comparative Death Rate ... ..	10·4
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1000 total (live and still births) ... ..	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—	
All infants per 1000 live births ...	26·5
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births ... ..	25·9
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births ... ..	31·2
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	51
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	Nil

#### BIRTHS.

The total number of live births was 264 of which 232 were legitimate and 32 illegitimate. The live birth rate was 13·8 per 1000 living; the birth rate for England and Wales being 18·4.

#### DEATHS.

The total number of deaths was 322 which gives a death rate of 16·8 per 1000 of the estimated resident population, the death rate for England and Wales being 11·3.

#### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The Infantile Mortality rate was 26·5 per 1000 registered live births ; the rate for England and Wales generally was 20·0.

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

<i>Cause.</i>				<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	—
Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—
Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases				1	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...			4	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus				9	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...		1	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...		—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	14	13
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...		1	—
Diabetes	...	...	...	—	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system				21	36
Coronary disease, angina	...	...		26	24
Hypertension with heart disease	...			1	4
Other heart diseases	...	...	...	13	33
Other circulatory diseases	...	...		9	2
Influenza	...	...	...	1	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	10	13
Bronchitis	...	...	...	8	9
Other diseases of respiratory system				1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...			1	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...			1	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...		—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...		1	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...			—	—
Congenital malformations	...	...		4	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases				14	16
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...		1	—
All other accidents	...	...	...	2	4
Suicide	...	...	...	2	—
Other violent causes	...	...	...	—	—
<b>All causes</b>				<b>146</b>	<b>176</b>

# NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR 1964

AGE PERIODS	TUBERCULOSIS											
	NEW CASES						DEATHS					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.	
Under 1 year	—	—	Scarlet Fever	—	—	Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 2	—	—	Pyrexia	—	—	Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 "	3	—	Erysipelas	—	—	Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 "	3	—	Enteric Fever	—	—	Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 "	3	—	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	Whooping Cough	1	—	—	—	—	—
5 "	10	—	Meningococcal Infection	—	—	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 "	2	—	Measles	1	—	Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 "	—	—		4	—		—	—	—	—	—	—
20 "	—	—		2	—		—	—	—	—	—	—
25 "	—	—		4	—		—	—	—	—	—	—
35 "	—	—		6	—		—	—	—	—	—	—
45 "	2	—		20	—		—	—	—	—	—	—
55 "	—	—		1	—		—	—	—	—	—	—
65 "	—	—		1	—		—	—	—	—	—	—
75 years and over	—	—		1	—		—	—	—	—	—	—
	23	—		39	—		2	—	1	1	—	—

In addition to the new cases of tuberculosis notified within the Borough 4 pulmonary male and 2 pulmonary female cases transferred from the mainland. Male cases include transfers to H.M. Prison and Borstal Institution

## SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, ETC.

Inspections under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	37
Inspections under the Public Health Acts	...	...	...	213
Drainage	...	...	...	164
Caravan Sites	...	...	...	36
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	3
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	9
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	32
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	23
Factories	...	...	...	21
Shops Act	...	...	...	3
Food Preparation Premises	...	...	...	111
Foodshops and Stores	...	...	...	53
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	2
Bakeries	...	...	...	14
Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	5
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	765
Water Supply	...	...	...	7
Rodent Control (Supervisory Visits)	...	...	...	21
Animal Boarding Establishments	...	...	...	47
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	159
				1728
Statutory Notices Served—Public Health Acts				14
Informal Notices Served				86
Informal Notices complied with				60
Nuisances Abated				28
Water Samples				
(a) Drinking Water				165
(b) Swimming Pools				9
Complaints received				146



**FOOD****Meat Inspection.**CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND  
CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle Excl'ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. Killed ... ..	1772	1610	2785	4574	22598	—
No. Inspected ... ..	1772	1610	2785	4574	22598	—
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	10	31	60	130	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	496	1038	11	1231	2217	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci ...	28.0	65.1	1.5	28.2	10.4	—
<b>Tuberculosis only</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	6	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ... ..	—	—	—	—	690	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ... ..	—	—	—	—	3.1	—
<b>Cysticercosis</b>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ... ..	35	15	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	35	15	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
		Tons	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.	
Total meat condemned ...	...	24	12	2	8	
Other Foodstuffs ... ..	...	1	12	3	4	
		26	5	1	12	

In addition 2,415 tins of miscellaneous foodstuffs were destroyed

## **SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION**

The following slaughterhouses were licensed for the year 1964:

1. Heytesbury Slaughterhouse, Worsley Road, Newport, occupied by F.M.C. (Meat) Ltd.
2. 35-43 Scarrots Lane, Newport, occupied by Bennett & Hamilton, Ltd.

765 visits were made to slaughterhouses in connection with meat inspection and licensing of premises.

The number of slaughtermen licensed by the Council was 22.

As in previous years, all slaughtering and Meat Inspection for the Island was carried out at the above slaughterhouses and all animals slaughtered were inspected post-mortem.

## **KNACKER'S YARD**

The following knacker's yard is licensed by the Council:  
Park Green Farm, Forest Road, Carisbrooke,  
occupied by A. and D. Biles, of Trafalgar Cottage,  
Union Street, Newport.

These premises and the staff provide an important service to agriculture.

## **FOOD PREMISES**

There was a continued improvement in the standard of food premises in the Borough but there were a number of cases where cleaning had been neglected during the summer because of the volume of trade and warnings were given where necessary. In large premises the amount of cleaning to be done from day to day justifies the employment of a person for this work alone but it is often difficult to find a suitable employee because more attractive work is available during the holiday season. Cleaning walls, floors and equipment therefore falls upon the personnel engaged in food preparation and in consequence the work is done hastily at the end of the day, if at all. It cannot be emphasised too strongly that money and effort spent on providing well equipped premises is completely wasted unless those responsible ensure that hygiene requirements are not subordinated to the demands of business during busy times.

Complaints received about food chiefly involved meat pies and cooked meats sold by retail and in almost every case the fault could be traced to prolonged or improper storage. Warnings were issued and advice given as to storage and stock rotation.

### FOOD INSPECTION

At the time of the typhoid outbreak in Aberdeen and following information received from the Ministry of Health, visits were made to all premises likely to hold stocks of certain canned meats. No cans processed at the suspect packing plant were discovered in the Borough.

In their report, the Departmental Committee of Enquiry set up to investigate the outbreak made certain recommendations in the light of their findings. No doubt the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food will consider what action may be necessary to strengthen the powers of Local Authorities in relation to the investigation and prevention of infectious disease.

### WATER SUPPLY

The supply of water to the Borough was satisfactory as regards purity and quantity. The water is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action so that there is no risk of contamination by lead and no special precautions are necessary in this respect.

Samples for chemical analysis taken from the wells at Carisbrooke and Bowcombe were satisfactory. The fluorine content from both these sources of supply is less than 0.1 parts per million.

Routine samples of water as supplied to the consumer were taken by the Isle of Wight Water Board for bacteriological examination and the results were as follows:—

Satisfactory	...	...	...	163
Suspicious	...	...	...	2
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	Nil
				—
Total				165
				—

Downend and Rowridge still lack a mains supply and schemes have been prepared to improve the position in these areas. It is hoped to start work on the provision of a supply for Rowridge soon.



The new works at Carisbrooke were completed and brought into operation. Full use is now made of the two new boreholes and improved treatment methods are provided.

### SWIMMING POOLS

Bacteriological Samples	No. of Samples Satisfactory	No. of Samples Unsatisfactory
Warner's Woodside Bay Holiday Village	1	1
Pontin's Little Canada Holiday Village	1	1
Seaclose ... ..	2	—
Carisbrooke Grammar School ...	1	—
Lakeside ... ..	1	1

23 visits were made to swimming pools during the year and advice given with regard to chlorination and purification. The number of samples taken was considerably less than in the previous year because of staff shortage.

The Council's Byelaws with regard to Swimming Baths and Bathing Pools have proved to be useful from time to time, not only with regard to purity of water but also in connection with accident prevention.

### HOUSING

Four houses were dealt with under the Housing Act 1957; 1 demolition order and 1 closing order were made and undertakings not to use for human habitation were accepted in two cases. 17 houses remain to be dealt with in the Council's Slum Clearance Programme approved in 1962 and a further appraisal of the position regarding unfit houses in the Borough is to be made next year. No difficulties were experienced concerning houses in multiple occupation and there are no Common Lodging Houses.

Six families were rehoused from unfit properties and a further 4 houses were allocated on medical grounds. Vacancies in council properties during the year totalled only 21 or 2.3%. The housing waiting list now stands at 300.

32 Council houses were completed as follows:—

Houses, 2 bedroom ... ..	6
Flats, 1 bedroom ... ..	8
Bungalows, 1 person ... ..	18



By the end of the year work had commenced on contracts totalling a further 22 dwellings at Pan Estate and 30 small flats at Cross Lane.

The 18 bungalows each housing one person were built on a site adjoining the County Council Home, Polars, and this attractive estate has been named Wallace Court. This is subsidised to some extent by the I.W. County Council who contribute a small sum annually for each dwelling occupied by an "approved tenant". Broadly speaking an approved tenant is someone who, because of age or infirmity, has reached a stage where he or she finds it difficult to cope in a conventional dwelling, but is too active to be cared for in a home. In return for the subsidy, the County Council reserves the right to nominate a tenant from outside the Borough, if there is no waiting list in Newport. However, this is not likely to happen because of the local demand, and also because other Island authorities are now engaged in similar enterprises.

The site of Wallace Court was made available by the I.W. County Council for one shilling a year.

At present the estate houses 15 women and 3 men. The oldest resident is almost 90 years of age, and the youngest is a totally blind lady who now leads a full and active life, taking part in handicraft work at the I.W. Blind Society's workshop built at the same time, and she is a devoted gardener. A trained guide dog is her constant companion.

### RODENT CONTROL

The following properties were inspected under Part I of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, during the year:—

Local Authority Premises	...	62
Dwelling Houses	... ..	425
Business Premises	... ..	317
Agricultural Premises	...	78

480 properties were treated and in addition 31 Rodent Control Certificates were issued in respect of 11 ships.

Rodent Control of business premises is carried out by annual contract which is an arrangement preferred by most traders; properties are inspected at least four times each year and treated when necessary.

The sewers in Newport are comparatively free from rodents except in one or two areas where there has been a significant rat population for many years. While control of such infestations is relatively simple using modern poisons and methods, eradication is impossible for various reasons. The usual annual test baiting at 10% of all manholes was not carried out chiefly because of staff difficulties, and instead, available time was spent in dealing with the known areas of infestation.

### **INSECT PEST CONTROL**

A wide variety of insect pests were dealt with chiefly involving dwelling houses and also food premises. Verminous premises are few and the infestations usually arise in the houses of aged people where through reduced physical activity and perhaps failing sight, the occupants are no longer able to keep their houses clean. In fact, vermin are often part of a wider welfare problem and in some cases the Public Health Inspectors work in co-operation with the Welfare Department. A Home Help can sometimes be employed to carry out day to day cleaning and an improved standard of cleanliness will discourage further infestation.

Not all infestations are of Public Health significance and many creatures which infest houses do little more than cause annoyance. Nevertheless the Department is always prepared to assist and advise. Where the pest is unusual or identification proves difficult, an Entomologist is consulted.

Food premises and particularly kitchens and bakeries, are liable to infestation because the temperature and plentiful food supply create a favourable environment. The repeated use of chemical poisons may have little effect and often the best remedy is structural repairs or alterations to reduce harbourage. Many poisons available are toxic to man and may affect the person who uses them or contaminate food. Particular care is needed in food premises and the Department is concerned to see that chemical poisons are used advisedly.

### **OFFICES AND SHOPS**

Because of the lack of staff, activities under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 have necessarily been confined to dealing with cases where plans are deposited for

the construction of new premises or the alteration or adaptation of existing ones. The Council have made every effort to recruit more staff but without success and until a further Public Health Inspector is appointed it will be impossible to embark on the routine inspection of all offices and shops.

In many shops, particularly food shops, facilities for employees are reasonably good because such premises have to some extent been covered by the requirements of earlier public health legislation. However, there are many places of employment of other kinds where conditions are known to be unsatisfactory and I am anxious to make a start on the important work of inspecting these places and enforcing the new legal requirements.

### **REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL**

House refuse is collected once weekly, except in a few outlying rural areas of the Borough which receive a fortnightly collection.

Trade refuse is collected on five days a week from shops, warehouses and business premises, and with modern packaging the volume of refuse increases and the weight decreases thus resulting in the need for larger vehicles.

Collections are made by the following vehicles.

- (a) One 16/18 cu. yd. Shelvoke & Drewry "W" Type Freighter with fore and aft tipping body.
- (b) Two 16/18 cu. yd. Shelvoke & Drewry "W" Type Freighters with fore and aft tipping bodies with powerpresses.
- (c) One 18/25 cu. yd. Dennis continuous loading vehicle.

Vehicle (a) was purchased in June 1954 and is to be replaced by a Dennis Paxit III A Major continuous loader of 35/50 cu. yds.

The two Shelvoke & Drewry vehicles with powerpresses are of limited capacities and will eventually need to be replaced by one or more larger type vehicles.

The number of hereditaments in the Borough increases steadily each year and therefore increases the amount of labour and haulage required. Every effort must be made to offset such increases as far as possible by the best use of manpower and vehicles.



The following are the numbers of hereditaments in the Borough for 1955 and for the past three years.

1st April 1965—7039

1st April 1964—6926

1st April 1963—6872

1st April 1955—6492

Tipping is at Sandpits Plantation, Briddlesford, and so far as practicable is by controlled tipping.

### **SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL**

A relief soil sewer was laid in Whitesmith Road to obviate the surcharging which took place when the Gunville Pumping Station was in operation.

The first stage of replacing the 6in. soil sewer in New Road, Wootton with a 9in. diameter pipe has been carried out and the remaining length will be laid next year.

A length of old brick soil sewer in South Street and East Street has been relaid with concrete pipes.

The Fairlee Hole surface water sewer scheme was completed together with the soil sewer overflow in Fairlee Road and this has effectively prevented any further flooding of properties fronting Fairlee Road.

Lengths of surface water sewer were provided in Wootton High Street and Medina Avenue and these have reduced the flow in the soil sewer at times of rain.



## FACTORIES ACTS, 1961

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health.

### PART I OF THE ACT.

### INSPECTIONS.

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	15	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	127	11	5	—
(iii) Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ... ..	4	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> ... ..	<b>146</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>—</b>

### CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Found	Remed'd	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	No. of Prosecutions
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	1	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	7	6	—	4	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> ... ..	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>—</b>

## PART VIII OF THE ACT.

## OUTWORKERS.

Nature of work	SECTION 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Lampshades	22	—	—	—	—	—
Wearing apparel, Making, etc.	3	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	25	—	—	—	—	—

### FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK AND DAIRIES) ACTS, 1944.

Samples of milk were taken during the year from herds whose milk is retailed raw without heat treatment. These samples were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Portsmouth, for the presence of live Tubercle Bacilli.

Number of samples taken for T.B. during the year 1964	...	...	...	...	...	38
Number of samples found to be negative	...					38
Number of samples found to be positive	...					—
Number of samples in which <i>Brucella Abortus</i> was isolated	...	...	...	...		—
Number of void samples	...	...	...	...		—



